

# May Climate Summary

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
GRAND RAPIDS MI

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The month of May was a wet month with all of southwest Lower Michigan receiving above normal rainfall. Areas east of Grand Rapids had the largest rainfall anomalies. Rainfall totals exceeded five and a half inches east of Grand Rapids and south of Interstate 96. Most of the rainfall in May occurred between the 10th and 14th and between the 29th and the 31st.

Temperatures averaged near to above normal during the first ten days of May. Mainly dry conditions prevailed from the 2nd to the 9th. During the mid portion of the month, much cooler and unsettled weather settled in as an upper level low remained parked over our region. That storm system produced 2 to 4 inches of rainfall and ushered in much cooler temperatures for most of the remainder of May. Temperatures generally averaged five to fifteen degrees below normal from the 11th through the 20th with scattered showers daily. Temperatures continued to average below normal from the 21st through the 24th.

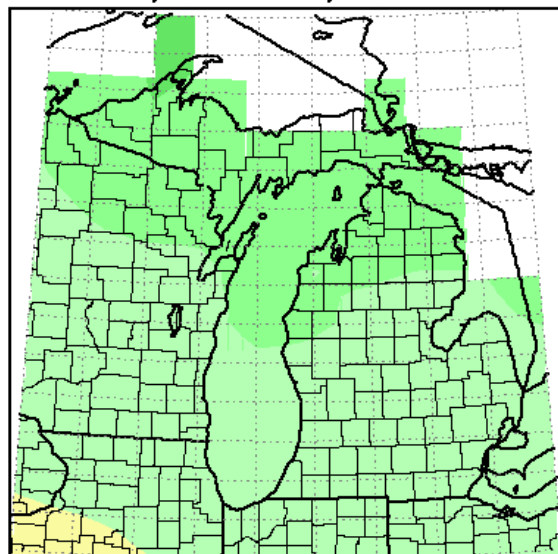
A significant moderating trend of temperatures finally occurred during the last week of May as a high amplitude upper level ridge then gradually built in. In fact over the Memorial Day holiday weekend temperatures averaged at least ten to fifteen degrees above normal. Grand Rapids had two days with highs above 90°. That is something that has happened in less than 10 percent of all Mays in the past 120 years.

A few severe storms on May 17th produced several reports of three quarters inch diameter hail. A brief tornado touchdown occurred two miles southwest of Schoolcraft on May 10th and did not result in any injuries or fatalities. Another weak short lived tornado touched down near Breckenridge in Gratiot County during the evening hours of the 25th. It also did not result in any injuries or fatalities.

A slow moving storm system that brought cooler air back into Southwest Lower Michigan late on the 31st produced a significant severe weather outbreak on the 30th. Nearly 20 reports of wind damage and large hail were received.

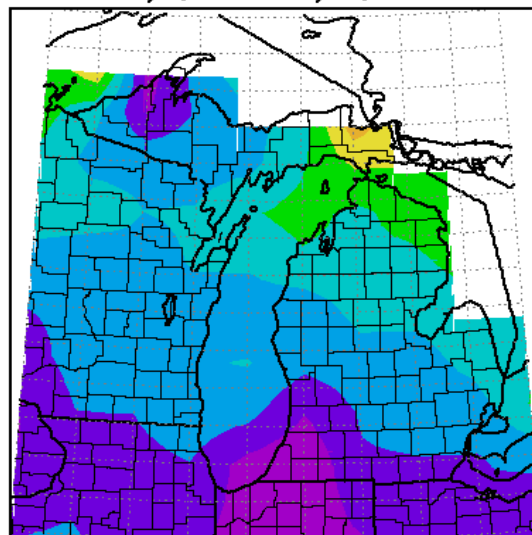
<b>Site:</b>	<b>Temperature</b>	<b>Precipitation</b>	<b>Snowfall</b>
<b>Grand Rapids</b>	<b>58.2 ° F</b>	<b>4.92 Inches</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Normal</b>	<b>58.1 ° F</b>	<b>3.35 Inches</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>Departure</b>	<b>+0.1 ° F</b>	<b>+1.57 Inches</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Lansing</b>	<b>58.2 ° F</b>	<b>4.74 Inches</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Normal</b>	<b>57.1 ° F</b>	<b>2.71 Inches</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>Departure</b>	<b>+1.1 ° F</b>	<b>+2.03 Inches</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Muskegon</b>	<b>56.4 ° F</b>	<b>4.28 Inches</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Normal</b>	<b>56.1 ° F</b>	<b>2.95 Inches</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>Departure</b>	<b>+0.3 ° F</b>	<b>+1.33 Inches</b>	<b>0</b>

Average Temperature in Degrees F  
May 1, 2006 to May 31, 2006



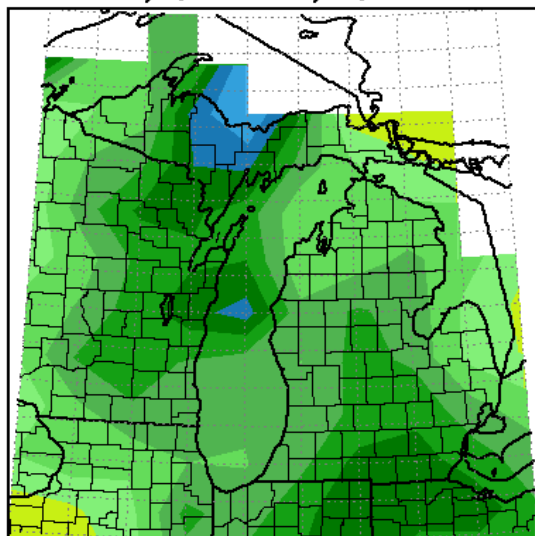
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Midwestern Regional Climate Center  
Illinois State Water Survey  
Champaign, Illinois

Average Temperature Departure from Mean in Degrees F  
May 1, 2006 to May 31, 2006



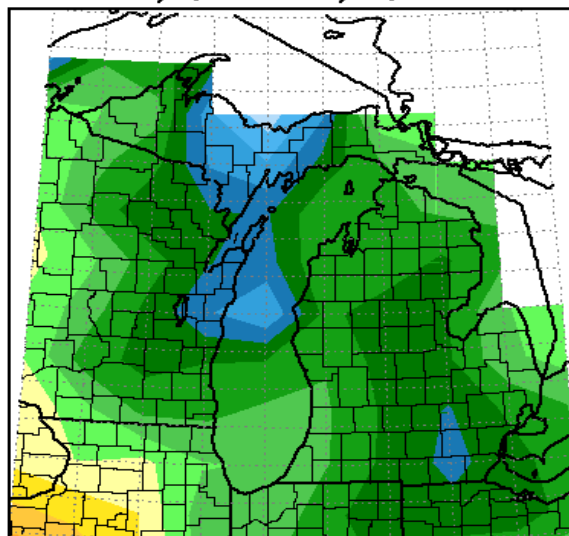
-1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6  
Midwestern Regional Climate Center  
Illinois State Water Survey  
Champaign, Illinois

Average Precipitation in Inches  
May 1, 2006 to May 31, 2006



0.01 0.02 0.05 0.1 0.12 0.14 0.16 0.18 0.2 0.22 0.24  
Midwestern Regional Climate Center  
Illinois State Water Survey  
Champaign, Illinois

Average Precipitation Departure from Mean in Inches  
May 1, 2006 to May 31, 2006



-0.14 0.12 0.1 0.08 0.06 0.04 0.02 0 0.02 0.04 0.06 0.08 0.1 0.12 0.14  
Midwestern Regional Climate Center  
Illinois State Water Survey  
Champaign, Illinois